

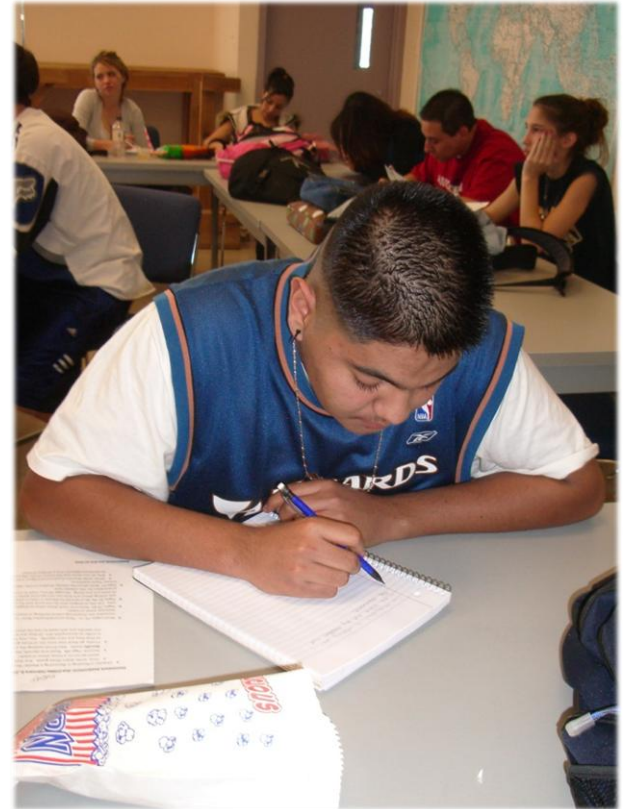
# GATEWAY *to* COLLEGE



A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EDUCATION MODEL SERVING  
DROPOUT YOUTH

# What We Do

Gateway to College empowers youth who have dropped out of school or are not on track to graduate to earn a diploma and dual credit in a supportive college environment.



# Changing Our Expectations for Dropouts

- Offering an alternative that challenges and inspires students
  - ▣ Innovative instructional strategies
  - ▣ Collaboration among faculty
  - ▣ Learning communities
  - ▣ Wrap-around and solution-focused support
  - ▣ Curriculum that meets high school standards while earning college credit

# Isaiah

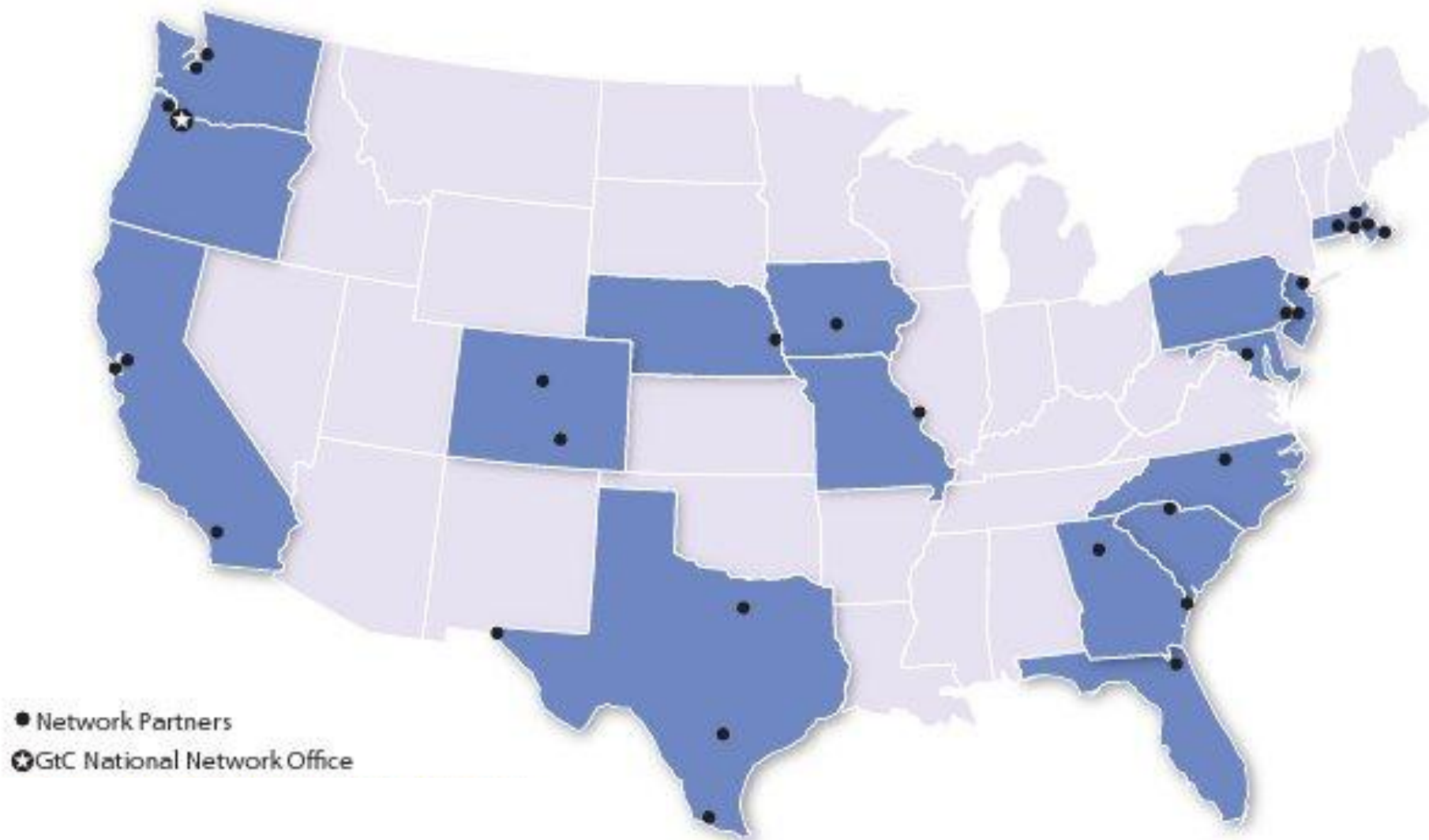


At the age of 18, Isaiah had earned only four high school credits. Chronic pain and school violence served as major barriers to his success. He enrolled in Gateway to College during the Fall 2010 semester after having been out of high school for almost a year. He is on track to graduate in the spring of 2013.

After finishing Gateway to College, Isaiah hopes to be accepted in to the C-STEP program at Durham Tech and transfer to UNC-Chapel Hill to continue his education, majoring in computer technology.

# Creating a Network of Partners

- Portland Community College (PCC) developed the initial Gateway to College model in 2000.
- In 2003, the Gates Foundation invited PCC to become an intermediary of the Early College High School Initiative.
- Gateway to College National Network (GtCNN) is now an independent nonprofit organization that serves all participating colleges.
- GtC currently operates at 29 colleges in 16 states, partnering with over 100 school districts.



# Essential Elements of Gateway to College

Gateway to College programs all follow 5 Essential Elements:

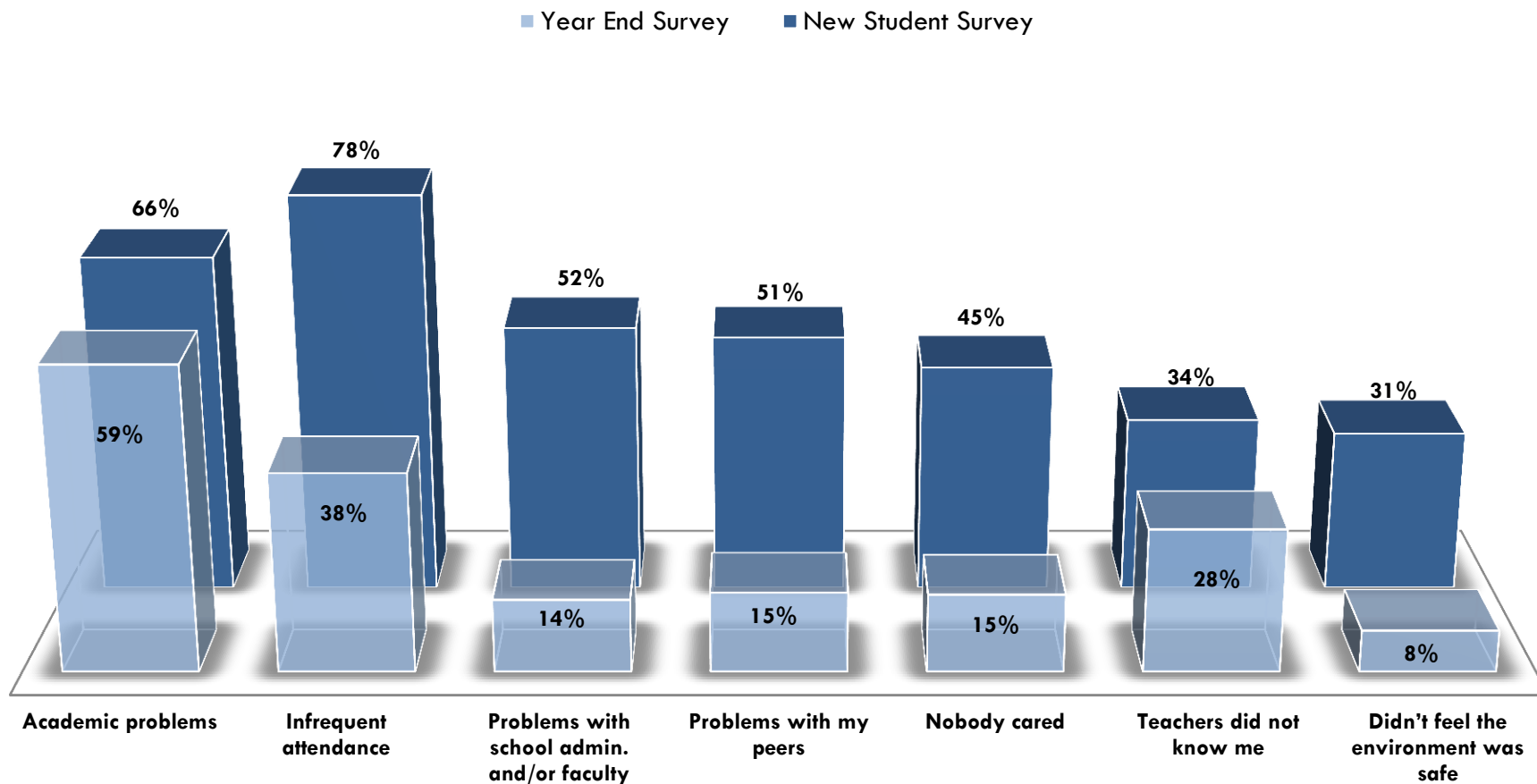
1. Significant Dual Credit
2. Sustainable Partnerships
3. Holistic Student Support
4. Innovative Teaching and Learning
5. Intentional Collaboration

# Student Eligibility Profile

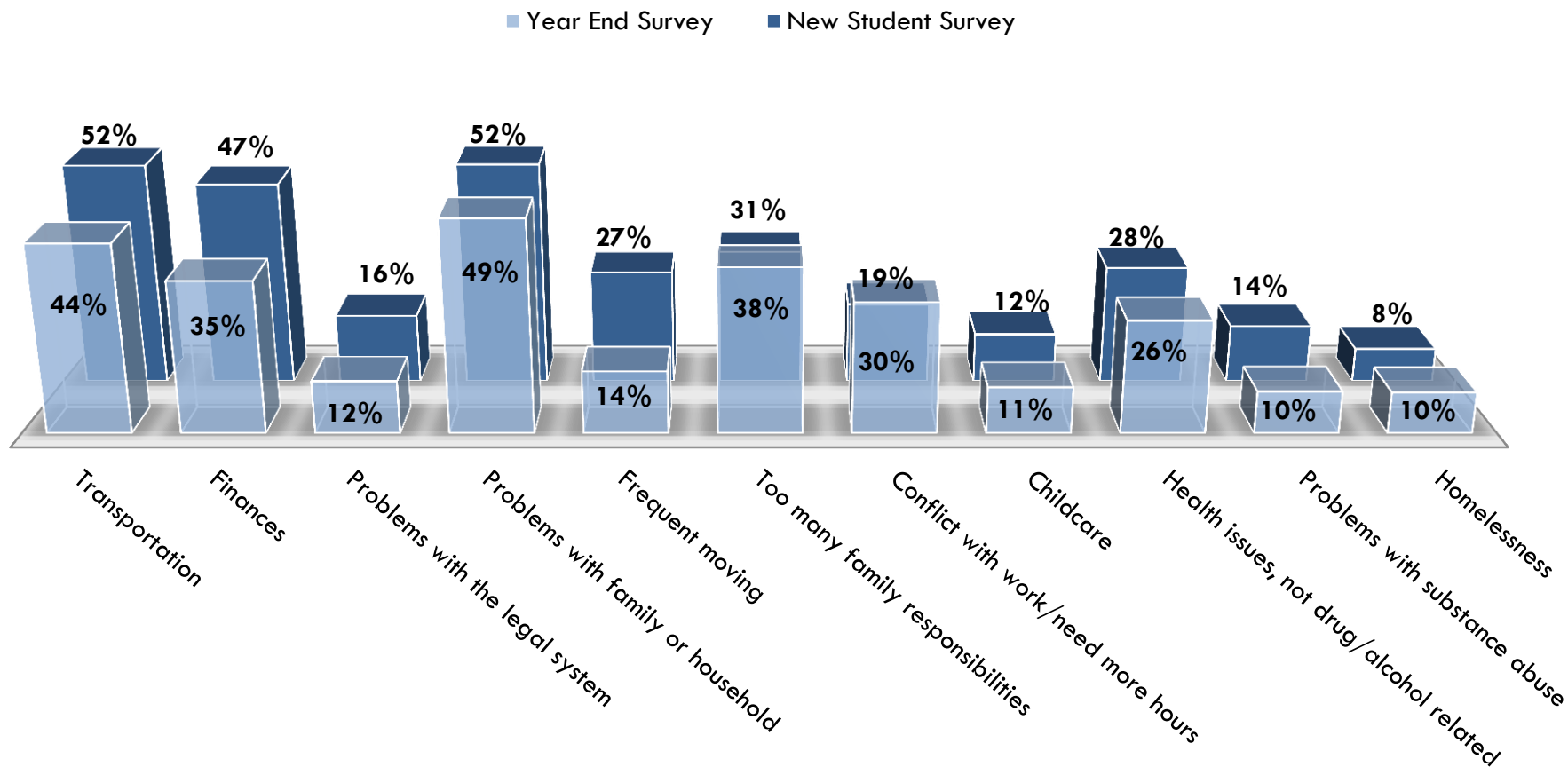
- Between 16 and 21 years old
- Out of school or on the verge of dropping out
- Behind in high school credits (for age and grade level)
- GPA of 2.0 or below
- Lives in an eligible school district
- Expressed goal to complete high school diploma

Student Profile at Entry	
Average Age:	17.3
Average High School GPA:	1.50
Average High School Credits at Entry:	43% of credits needed for a diploma

# School Oriented Challenges



# Life Challenges



# Gateway to College Results

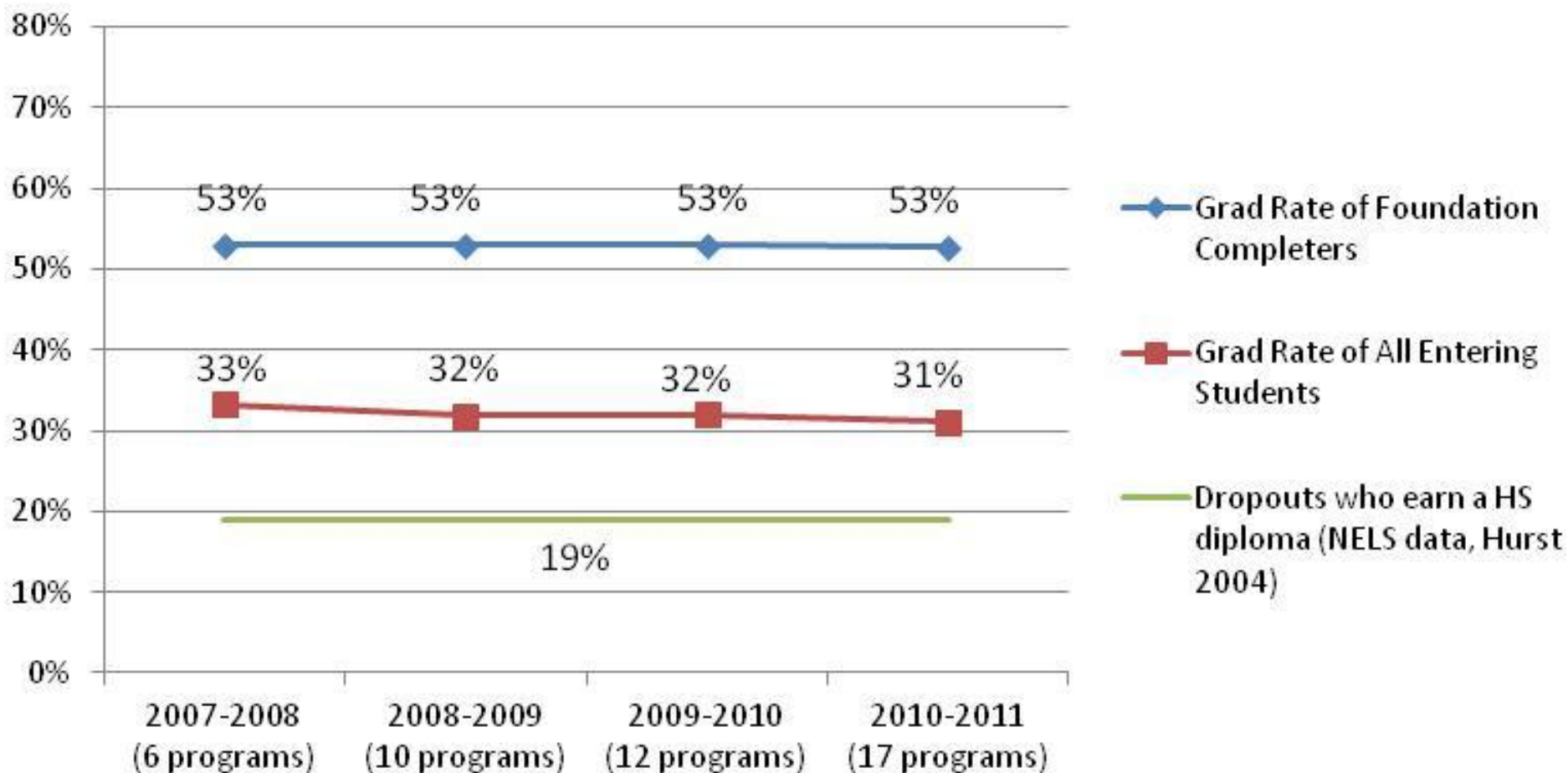
## ■ Better attendance

- Despite very poor attendance in high school, Gateway students have an overall average attendance rate of 81% in their college courses.

## ■ Improved academic success

- Faced with multiple barriers to success and a history of failing grades, GtC students pass 72% of courses in which they earned a letter grade.
- GtC students enter the program with an average high school GPA of 1.50, but when students graduate from a GtC program, the average GPA is 2.56.

# Gateway to College Graduation Rate



# Gateway to College Results

- ***Accumulation of college credit***
  - ▣ Students graduating from GtC accrue an average of 35.7 college credit hours during their enrollment in the program, putting them well on their way to earning an associate's degree.

# Academic Progress

When compared with a baseline group of college students who have already earned a High School Diploma or GED, Gateway students attain:

- Higher success rates for developmental math and English courses<sup>1</sup>
- Higher success rates for students passing out of developmental course sequences to transfer-level classes<sup>2</sup>

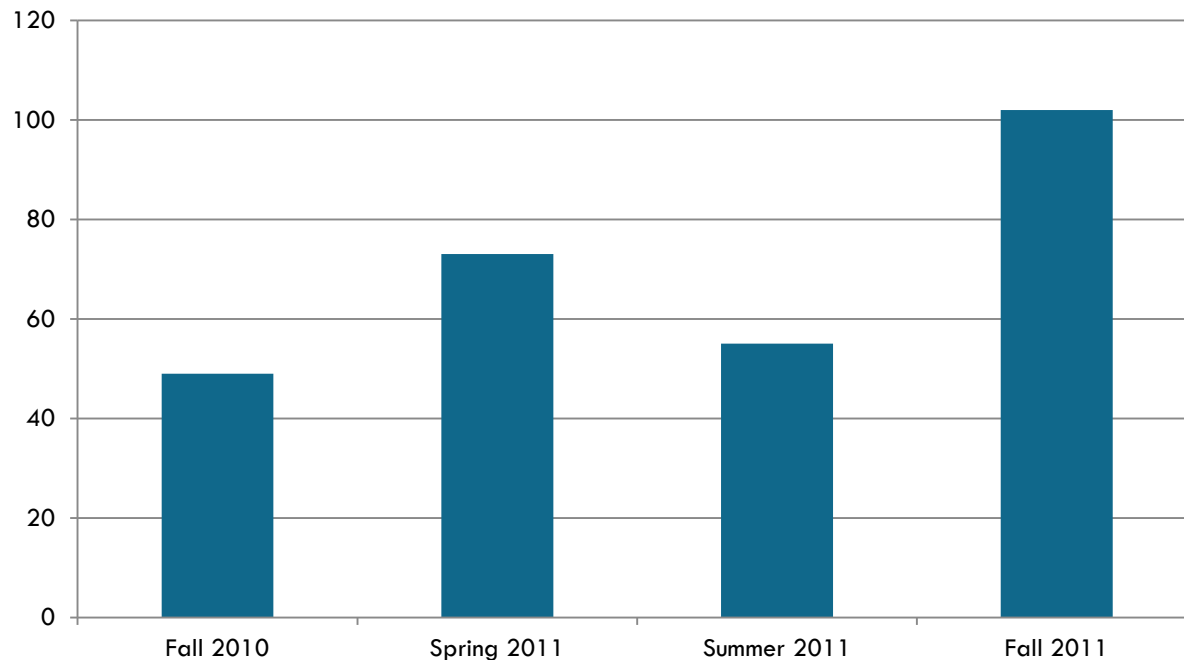
<sup>1,2</sup> Gerlaugh, K., Thompson, L., Boylan, H. & Davis, H. (2007).

National Study of Developmental Education II: Baseline Data for Community Colleges.

Research in Developmental Education. 20 (4) Retrieved from: [www.ncde.appstate.edu](http://www.ncde.appstate.edu)

# GtC at Durham Technical Community College

- Began serving students in Fall 2010
- Enrollments by term, including new and continuing students



# GtC at Durham Technical Community College

## ■ Student Profile at Entry to GtC, 2010-2011

Durham Technical Community College	
<b>Average Age:</b>	17.7
<b>Average High School GPA:</b>	1.18
<b>Average High School Credits at Entry:</b>	51% of credits needed for a diploma

# GtC Population at DTCC

- 77% are students of color
- 78% report receiving financial assistance
- 86% are first generation college-goers
- 28% have at least one parent without a high school diploma
- 41% don't know the highest level of education completed by their father
- 10% state homelessness as a challenge to staying in high school
- 33% cite health problems not related to drugs and alcohol as a challenge to staying in high school
- 72% have an academic goal of a BA or higher

# Student Outcomes at DTCC

## ■ Better attendance

- While students have reported chronic truancy issues in high school, GtC students at DTCC have achieved a 75% attendance rate.

## ■ Improved academic success

- Despite a history of academic failure among GtC students, nearly 60% of foundation term courses were completed successfully.
- 76% of first term students passed all or some of their courses in Fall 2010, it rose to 82% in Spring 2011.

# Postsecondary Options for High School Students in North Carolina

- The state is a leader in providing postsecondary options for high school students.
- Career and College Promise creates seamless dual enrollment educational opportunities for high school students.
- The state is poised to expand postsecondary access to high school dropouts.

# Effective Dropout Reengagement Policies

- Provide access to relevant and engaging high school educational opportunities
- Link dropout reengagement programs to postsecondary education
- Create sustainable funding options for dropout reengagement programs
- Provide for wraparound student supports in dropout reengagement programs

# Recommendations

Leverage North Carolina's success in the early college movement to:

1. Establish Gateway to College as a means to provide a range of dual enrollment opportunities, linked with postsecondary education, for high school dropouts
2. Ensure dual enrollment eligibility is not limited to high achieving students
3. Ensure courses taken for postsecondary credit count for high school graduation requirements

# Rayonna



Rayonna grew up as native New Yorker, in the inner city of Jamaica Queens. She became a mother at the age of 13, and soon after, she stopped attending school. She returned to school briefly in 2006 in North Carolina, but soon dropped back out.

Rayonna enrolled in Gateway to College at DTCC in January 2011. She will graduate from Gateway to College in May 2012 with 17 college credits. She will continue at Durham Tech to earn an Associate in Applied Science degree , becoming an Occupational Therapy Assistant. She would like to go on to obtain a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy.



“This program is so different than high school. I feel challenged academically, and that is something I haven’t felt in a long time.”

“It’s an opportunity of a lifetime. Being in Gateway means doing something with your life and going somewhere.”

“At home I never saw the model of ‘you can be anything, you are intelligent,’ but now I can see it.”



“Being in a learning community, we learn from each other. Collectively, we are better together.”



“Gateway to College saved my life.”